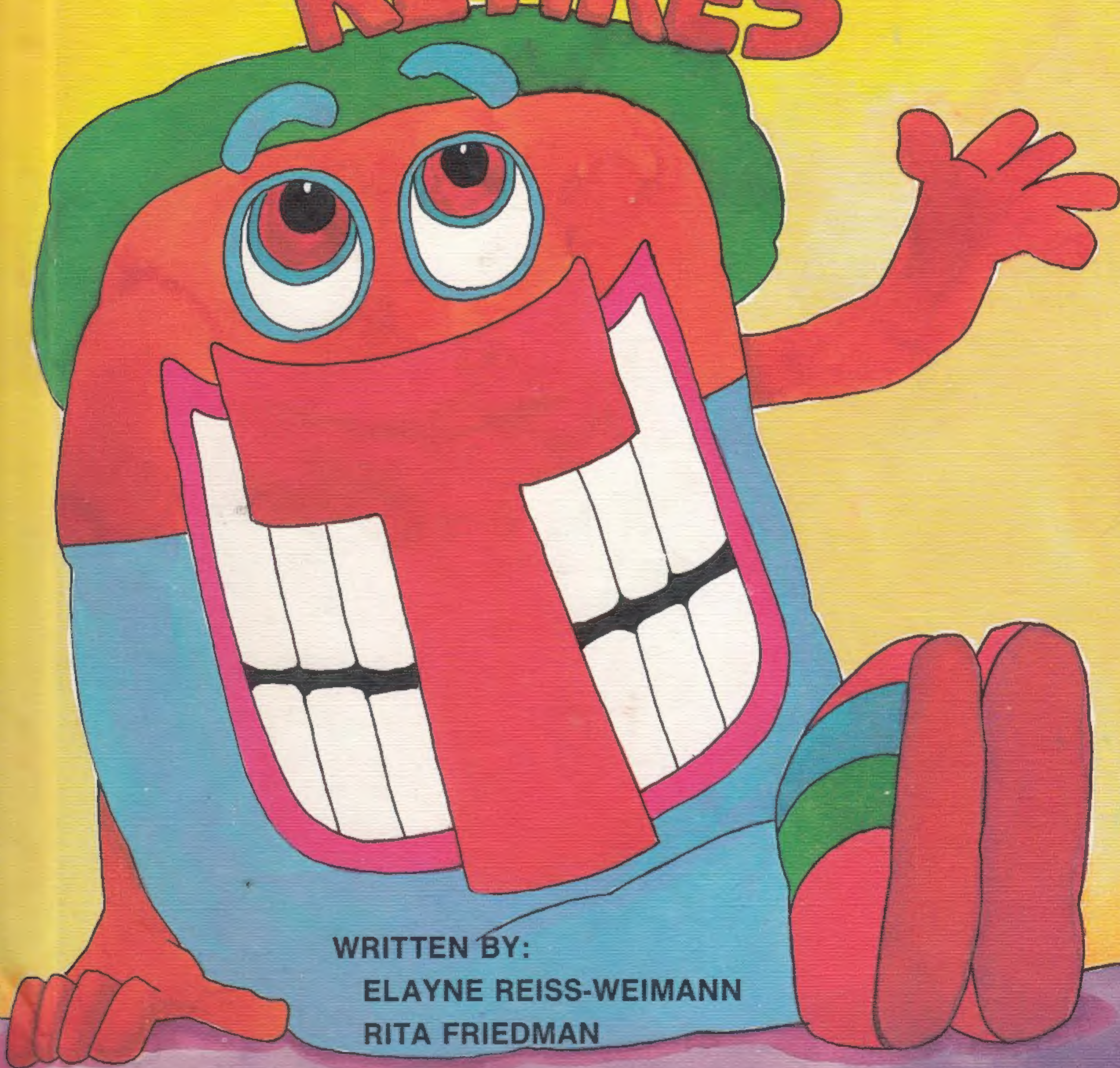


TALL TOOTHBRUSH RETIRES



WRITTEN BY:

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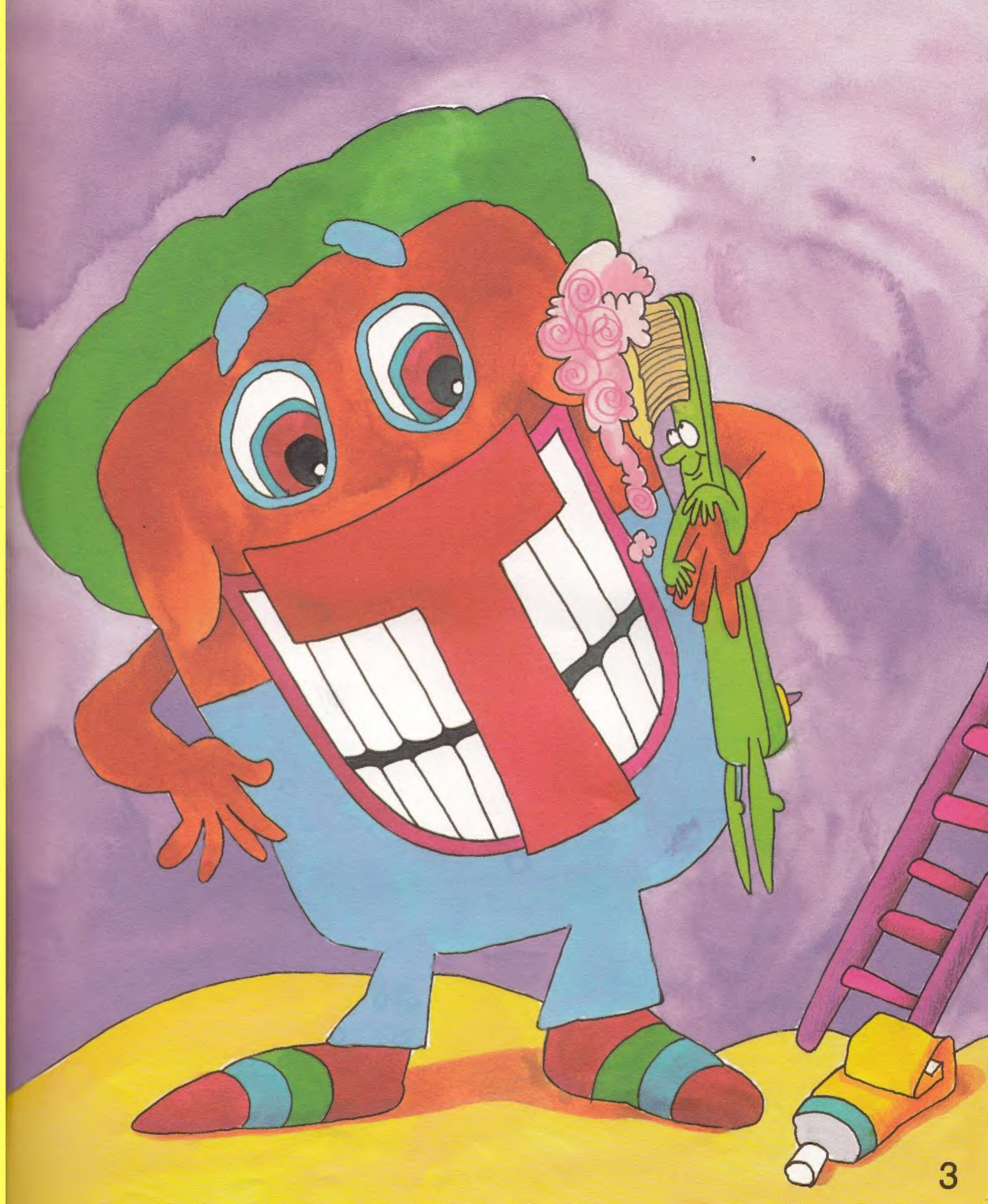
RITA FRIEDMAN

Mr. T and Tall Toothbrush have worked together
for a long time.

Twice a day Tall Toothbrush brushes Mr. T's tall teeth.
The two friends enjoy working together.



Once, Mr. T sent Tall Toothbrush away.
He wanted Battery Toothbrush to brush his tall teeth.
Very soon Mr. T knew he had made a terrible mistake.
He found Tall Toothbrush and apologized.
Since that time, Tall Toothbrush has been brushing
Mr. T's tall teeth.



Tall Toothbrush works very hard.

"It takes me two hundred and twenty two trips from the tip of the top to the top of the tip of each tremendous tooth," says Tall Toothbrush.

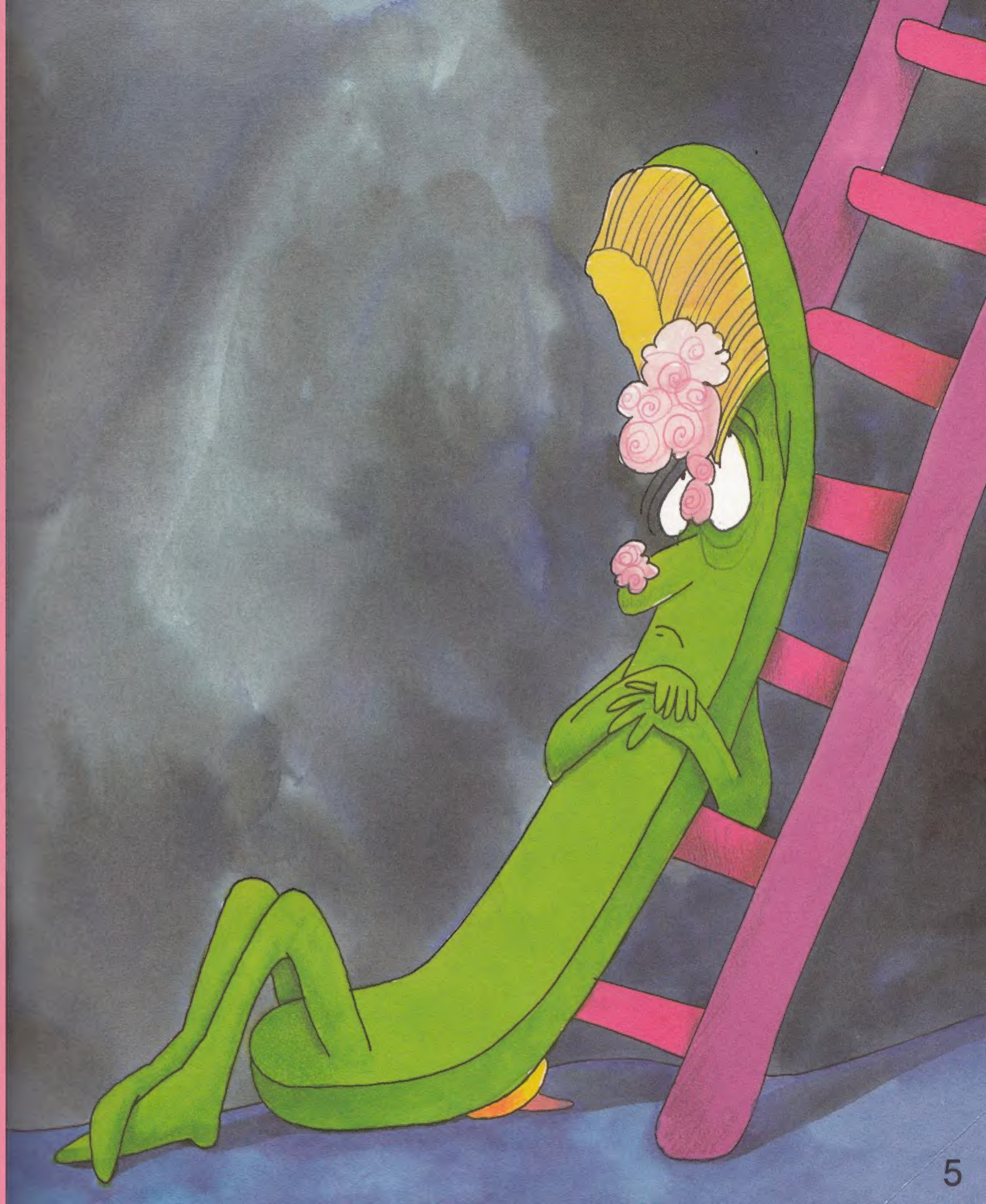
"I am too tired.

My bristles are too soft.

They are turning gray.

It is time for me to retire.

I will find another toothbrush to take my place."



Tall Toothbrush talks on T.V.

"I am Tall Toothbrush," he says.

"Twice a day for twenty years I have brushed Mr. T's tall teeth.

I am tired.

It is time for me to retire.

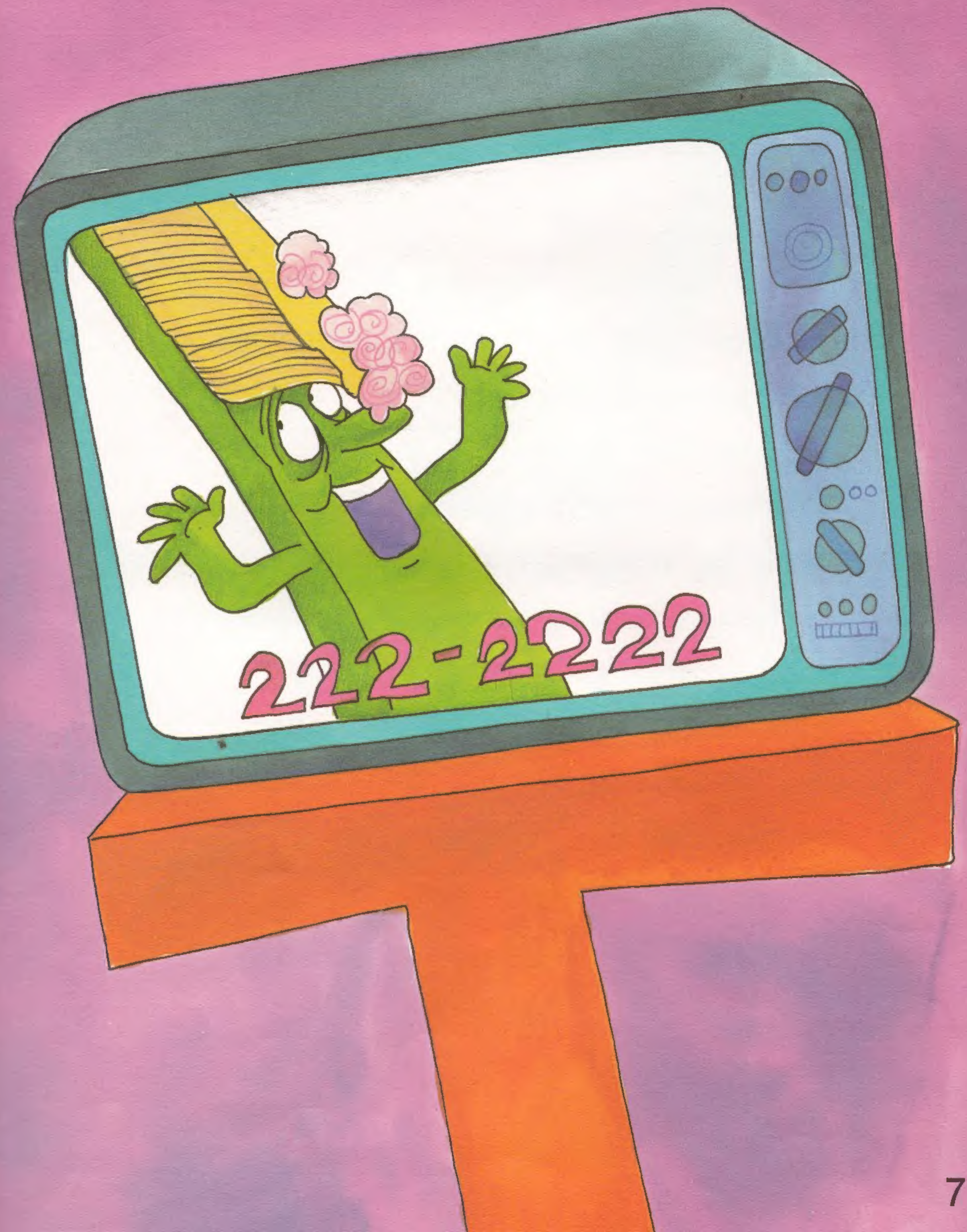
I want a toothbrush to take my place.

The toothbrush must be friendly and try to make Mr. T laugh.

Mr. T is a very nice letter person.

I care about him.

Telephone me at 222-2222."



Many toothbrushes telephone Tall Toothbrush.
Tall Toothbrush questions each toothbrush.
“How would you take care of Mr. T’s tall teeth?”
asks Tall Toothbrush.
“How would you act toward Mr. T?”
Finally Tall Toothbrush chooses two toothbrushes.
He chooses Twisting Turning Toothbrush and
Tickling Tumbling Toothbrush.
“Either one of you could take my place,”
says Tall Toothbrush.
“I’ll telephone you after I talk to Mr. T.”



Tuesday morning, Tall Toothbrush talks to Mr. T.

"Mr. T, I am too tired to brush your tall teeth anymore," says Tall Toothbrush.

"It is time for me to retire."

"You can't retire," says Mr. T.

"No other toothbrush can brush my tall teeth the way you do."

"I have found two very nice toothbrushes," says Tall Toothbrush.

"Will you talk to them and choose one to take my place?"

"I will talk to them if you promise not to leave until I find a toothbrush I like," says Mr. T.

"I promise," says Tall Toothbrush.



The next Tuesday, Tall Toothbrush takes the two toothbrushes to talk to Mr. T. The two toothbrushes try to be friendly. "I like Letter People Land," says Twisting Turning Toothbrush. "I would like to stay here and brush your tall teeth." "You wouldn't like it here," says Mr. T. Mr. T is not friendly. He does not make the two toothbrushes feel welcome. After ten minutes Mr. T says, "Thank you for coming, but I cannot choose either one of you to take Tall Toothbrush's place."



The two toothbrushes leave with Tall Toothbrush.
“Mr. T did not make us feel welcome,”
says Tickling Tumbling Toothbrush.
“He does not want us to stay in Letter People Land,”
says Twisting Turning Toothbrush.
“Why did he treat us so badly?”
ask the two toothbrushes.
“Mr. T forgot his manners today,”
says Tall Toothbrush.
“He is worried about me retiring.
He does not want to like any other toothbrush.
I will try to talk to him tomorrow.”



Tall Toothbrush tries to talk to Mr. T.

"The two toothbrushes are very nice," says Tall Toothbrush.

"Why didn't you act nicely toward them?"

"I don't like them," says Mr. T.

"How can you say you don't like them before you know them?" asks Tall Toothbrush.

"I don't want to know them," says Mr. T.

"Remember, you promised not to leave until I find a toothbrush I like.

I did not find one."

"Talking to Mr. T will not change his mind," thinks Tall Toothbrush.

"I will try another way."



“I want Mr. T to get to know you,” says Tall Toothbrush.

“He is not friendly toward us,”
say the two toothbrushes.

“Look inside this box.

There are wigs, make-believe noses, dark sunglasses, and many more disguises.

You can dress up and pretend to be someone else.

Then I will introduce you to Mr. T again,” explains Tall Toothbrush.

“This time he will not know you are toothbrushes who want to take my place.”



Tall Toothbrush introduces the two disguised toothbrushes to Mr. T.

"Mr. T, these are two new friends," says Tall Toothbrush.

"They do not know anyone in Letter People Land."

"Please come in," says Mr. T.

"I will tell you all about Letter People Land. It is a terrific place to live."

"Mr. T is very friendly to us," whisper the two toothbrushes.

"I told you Mr. T is very nice," whispers Tall Toothbrush.



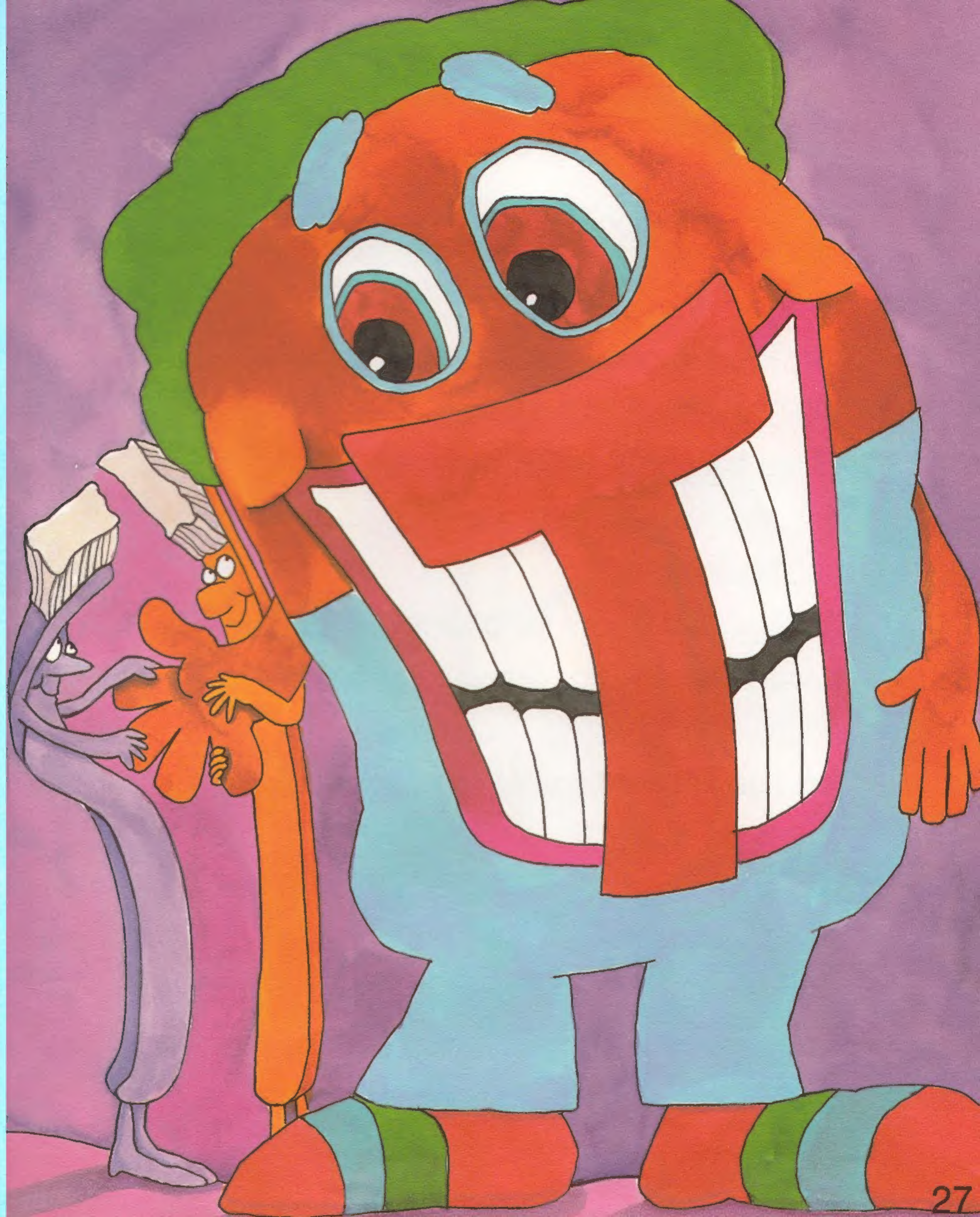
Mr. T and the two toothbrushes like each other.
Every day the two toothbrushes come to Mr. T's house
with Tall Toothbrush.
They watch Tall Toothbrush brush Mr. T's tall teeth.
They tell Mr. T stories and jokes.
They make him laugh.
"I like our new friends," says Mr. T.
"I knew you would," smiles Tall Toothbrush.
"Tomorrow I will tell Mr. T that I am retiring,"
whispers Tall Toothbrush to the two toothbrushes.



The next day Tall Toothbrush says,
“Mr. T, I am retiring in two weeks.”
“You can’t,” says Mr. T.
“I haven’t found a toothbrush I like.”
“Choose one of our new friends to take my place,”
smiles Tall Toothbrush.
“They are not toothbrushes,” says Mr. T.
The two toothbrushes take off their disguises.
Mr. T is very surprised.
Mr. T is very embarrassed.



Mr. T turns to the two toothbrushes.
“I want to apologize,” says Mr. T.
“I was not nice to you when I knew
you were toothbrushes.
I did not want to like you.
I never thought how badly I was making you feel.
I was only thinking about not wanting to lose
Tall Toothbrush.
Please forgive me.”



“Mr. T, we forgive you,” say the two toothbrushes.
“We understand how you feel.”
“I have been very selfish,” says Mr. T.
“Tall Toothbrush, if you are tired,
you should retire.”
“Do you want one of us to take Tall Toothbrush’s
place?” ask Twisting Turning Toothbrush
and Tickling Tumbling Toothbrush.
“No, I do not want one of you,” smiles Mr. T.
“I want the two of you.”



The two toothbrushes work for Mr. T
as a toothbrush team.
Tall Toothbrush retires from brushing.
He is now the toothbrushing teacher
of Letter People Land.
But every day he spends time with Mr. T
and his two new friends.
They tell stories and laugh together.

